

RE'EH

Torah Study

Uncompromising devotion to God is the theme of this week's parashah, *Parashat Re'eh*. Such devotion is expressed through belief, but more importantly, through "avodah," meaningful service to God. For the biblical Israelite, service to God meant loyalty to God's commandments and participation in the sacrificial cult. For Deuteronomy, *avodah* referred specifically to offering sacrifices to God at a central place of worship: "look only to the site that the Lord your God will choose amidst all your tribes as His habitation, to establish His name there. There you are to go, and there you are to bring your burnt offerings and other sacrifices ... (Deuteronomy 12:5-6).

The theme of avodah, sacred service or worship, infuses the following chapter, where we are repeatedly told not to serve other gods but rather remain steadfast in our service to God. After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E., however, the meaning of avodah was transformed. No longer could the Israelites serve God through sacrificial practice and so the stage was set for the evolution of other forms of service.

Deuteronomy 13:5 instructs us: "Follow none but the Lord your God, and revere none but Him; observe His commandments alone and heed only His orders; serve none but Him and hold fast to Him." How is a Jew to serve God? Maimonides provides us with one clear answer: "[this commandment to serve God] imposes a specific duty, namely that of prayer" (Maimonides, *Sefer HaMitzvot*, 8). For Maimonides fixed prayer is the essence of one's service to God.

On the other hand, Nahmanides, famed Talmudist and mystic of the thirteenth century, argues that prayer is not mandated at all by the Torah. Prayer is nothing less than God's gift to us. "For prayer is an expression of God's loving kindness to us when God hears and responds whenever we pray . . . as part of our service to God we are obligated to study God's Torah, pray to God in times of distress, and turn our eyes and our hearts toward God 'as the eyes of servants toward the hands of their masters' (Psalm 123:2)."

Sefer Hasidim, a medieval pietistic work, tells a story of a Jewish shepherd who, when he went out to the field each day would offer up a heartfelt prayer: "Master of the Universe! It is revealed and known to You that if You had animals and gave them to me to protect, although I take wages from all others, from You I would take nothing because I love You." One day, a knowledgeable student of Torah walked passed the shepherd and saw the shepherd engaged in his spontaneous prayer. The student rebuked the shepherd, "Fool, do not pray like that!" The shepherd queried, "How then should I pray?" The student taught the shepherd the words of the Amidah and the Shema. After the student left, the shepherd forgot all that had been taught and so was even afraid to say his prayer of the heart. One evening, a messenger of God appeared before the student and rebuked him for quelling the passionate, spontaneous prayer of one of God's devoted servants: "If you do not tell him to say what he was accustomed to before you arrived, know that sorrow will overtake you. For you have robbed me of one who belongs to the world to come." The student returned to the shepherd and urged him to recite his heartfelt prayer of old. The author of *Sefer Hasidim* concludes, "for God desires the heart" (*Sefer Hasidim*, 5-6).

While fixed prayer is important and central to who we are as Jews, it is only meaningful when it is ignited by the passionate prayer of the heart and soul which serves as the unique signature to each of our prayers. Maimonides challenges us to serve God through obligatory prayer; Nahmanides encourages us to give heed to the heart and soul in that same avodah. The challenge is to combine both of these approaches as we serve God in a heartfelt and genuine way.

Adapted from the Jewish Theological Seminary
Rabbinic Fellows Commentary

Yahrtzeits

August 23/Av 25

Abraham G. Abramson
Ruth R. Abramson
Benjamin Barzune
Esther Fair
Feiga Geeteh
Elias Glasser
Siegfried
Harnmerschlag
Samuel Joels
Rebecca Kalin
Maurice J. Kaufman
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Bertha Kreditor
Ronald Levine
Moses Levy
Eva Newman
Ida Melnick Pollicoff
Isaac Pugach
Moses Schlornowitz
Harry Shay
Edyth I. Taxon

August 24/Av 26

Nettie Finger
Avril Freedman
Sam Gilford
Rubin Goldin
Sylvia G. Katz
Leeza Schneider
Mary Sokolov
Lillian Stein
William Turner

August 25/Av 27

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Isaac Jacobs
Phil H. Kaufman
Sam Krasner
Jack Lain
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August 26/Av 28

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Patsy Miller
Celia Ornish
Harold A. Robinson
Sadye Silberstein
Adele Zerowin

August 27/Av 29

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Frances C. Donsky
Morris Kalib
David N. Pritsker

August 28/Av 30

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Blumle T. Bloom
Ella Cohn
Dolly Dickwolf
Sarah Esquenazi
Joe Genecov
Ellen Goodman
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Pearl P. Shapp
Mitchell Stein
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August 29/Elul 1

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Sadie Goldsmith
Ida K. Harris
Susan L. Huntley
Lawrence V. Meyers
Henry Schwartz
Harold Shapiro
Etta G. Tobolowsky
Lillie Witebsky
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Join Sisterhood for BUNKO night on Sat., 9/6 at 8:30 p.m.

Send checks for \$18/per person payable to

Shearith Israel Sisterhood, 9401 Douglas Ave., Dallas, TX 75225.
**SPOUSE, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS, AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME...
THE MORE THE MERRIER!!!!**

Shabbat Announcements

Congregation Shearith Israel

August 23-29, 2003 • 25 Av - 1 Elul 5763

Deuteronomy 12:29-14:29 Page 1068

Haftorah: Isaiah 54:11-55:5 Page 1085

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 22

Douglas Campus:

6:15 p.m. Shir Chadash – Topletz

North Satellite - Solomon Schechter Academy:

6:30 p.m. Family Service – Beit Aryeh

Greeters are Leslie & Wayne Secore.

BIRKAT HAHODESH

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23

Douglas Campus:

8:30 a.m. Torah Study – Aaron Youth Center

9:15 a.m. Morning Service – Sanctuary
*Bar /Bat Mitzvah – Nicholas B. Petrocchi
and Jessica Petrocchi*

9:45 a.m. Topletz Family Minyan

11:00 a.m. Garineem (ages 0–5) – Aaron Youth Center
(Babysitting for children 18 mo.-5 yrs. old in Room 8)

North Satellite - Solomon Schechter Academy:

9:30 a.m. Morning Service – Beit Aryeh
Bar Mitzvah – Aaron Edwin Zack

9:30 a.m. Babysitting (ages 18 mo.-5 yrs.) – Music Room

10:45 a.m. Garnineem (ages 0-5) – Music Room

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 23

Douglas Campus:

7:15 p.m. Mincha/Maariv/Havdalah – Sablosky

REMINDERS:

**Tiny Treasures registrations due Monday, Aug. 25th.
Bimah Flower Sponsorships due Friday, Aug. 29th.**

Mazel Tov to...

...NICHOLAS B. PETROCCHI and JESSICA PETROCCHI on their B'nei Mitzvah. Nicholas and Jessica are the children of Marlene & Tony Petrocchi and brother and sister of Eric. They are the grandchildren of Sara Shipper and the late Bernard Shipper and Till and Jane Petrocchi of Euless, TX.

...AARON EDWIN ZACK on his Bar Mitzvah. Aaron is the son of Mike & Mindee Zack and brother of Cory, and grandson of Ruth Zack and the late Louis Zack and Sondra and Irving Belsky of Clearwater, FL and the late Edwin Goodman; great-grandson of Celia Greenfield of West Bloomfield, MI.

Daily services in Sablosky Chapel

Sundays and federal holidays*	8:30 a.m. Shacharit
*when the synagogue office is closed	6:00 p.m. Mincha/Maariv
Weekdays:	7:00 a.m. Shacharit
	6:00 p.m. Mincha/Maariv

*Labor Day is observed on Monday, Sept. 1, 2003.

Tuesdays with Tanakh, with Rabbi Raskin

...now studying the book of Amos, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons of the month in congregants' homes. Call Suzan Gordon at 214-361-6606, ext. 228 for time and location if you are interested.

Men's Torah Study with Rabbi Raskin

Join us **Tuesday mornings** (7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) **at the new cafe at the JCC.**

"Dive Into Talmud" with Rabbi Glickman

Join us on **Friday mornings** following minyan for a lively Talmud class. A complimentary light breakfast will be served. **7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. in Aaron Youth Center.**

Jewish Family Service Food Pantry Urgently Needs Help!

Because so many in our community are unemployed, JFS has almost run out of food. Specifically, they need one pound bags of rice, canned tomatoes and canned chicken. CSI will be collecting items in our lobby during regular business hours.

CSI Preschool Enrollment is Now Underway

...for the 2003-04 school year. Children 18 mo.-4 yrs. old are now accepted. Call Esther Wolf (ext. 231) for details.

Announcements

CSI Adult Education Series: August 26 and Sept. 2 & 9

Watch your mail for details on this exceptional series at CSI Douglas, featuring **Rabbi Elliot Dorff (Aug. 26) Rabbi Ed Feinstein (September 2) and Reb Mimi Feigelson (Sept. 9).** Your choice of study sessions with our Rabbis and Jim Rosenthal follow the keynote speaker on all three nights. Reserve the series (\$36) by calling Jan Brock at 214-361-6606, ext. 230.

CSI Preschool "Parent & Me" Classes Begin Sept. 2

...for Toddlers age 12-22 months on Tuesdays, 9:00-10:15 a.m. and Thursdays, 10:15-11:30 a.m. Also, Infants age 6-12 months on Thursdays, 9:00-9:45 a.m. Call Esther Wolf at 214-361-6606, ext. 231 for details.

Fiddler on the Roof at the JCC • Sunday, Sept. 7 • 4:30 p.m. Return to Anatevka and be part of Tevye's world for a few hours, as we transform the **Zale Auditorium** into a **fun family sing-along event. Tickets are \$9 per person or a Family 4 Pack at \$30. Dinner is included. Call 214-739-2737, ext. 215 or 212 by Sept. 3 to make your reservation.**

Author Edwin Black to Speak at CSI on October 15th Edwin Black, five-time Pulitzer Prize winning author, comes to **CSI on Wednesday evening, October 15th.** His lecture, "From Long Island to Auschwitz—How American corporate Philanthropies founded and funded the Nazi eugenics of Hitler and Mengele," is based on his book, *War Against the Weak* (releasing Sept. 7). A dessert reception and book signing will follow. Watch your mail for details. **Gen. Admission \$18; Patrons Event \$75** (includes dinner in the Sukkah, a copy of the book and reserved seating.

Host or Be a Guest at a High Holiday Meal

Many of our congregants love to host out-of-town college students or young professionals. If you are interested in being a guest or host, call Harrian Stern at 972/931-5299.

If You are Interested in Becoming a Member of CSI...

...you are invited to these events. **September 7th:** Open House at our Douglas campus 9:30-11:30 a.m. Come for Bagels and learn about all that's new at CSI. **September 12th:** Prospective members, come be our guest for dinner following our Shir Chadash service (6:30 p.m.) at Beit Aryeh (RSVP required!) **September 14th:** Visit our booth at Shalom FunFest (1:00-5:00 p.m.) at Fairview Farms in Plano or Sneaky Pete's in Lewisville. Contact Linda Kahalnik at 214/361-6606, ext. 210 or LKahalnik@shearith.org.

Sponsorship

- Ervin Donsky in memory of Frances Donsky.
- Mr. & Mrs. Alex Keselman in memory of Yakov Keselman.
- Ida B. Miller & Family in memory of Henry Miller.
- Gillian Menter, Linda Sacher and Eileen Sachar in memory of Max Sachar.

To sponsor the Shabbat announcement in honor of or in memory of someone special, please call ext. 226 or fill out a form at the reception desk of Shearith Israel. Weekly Shabbat announcement sponsorships are not printed in the *Shofar*.

Vision 2000 and Beyond Campaign — Preserving the Past, Embracing the Future

This campaign is not complete without your participation. Our Campaign Goal is \$14 million short term (payable over 5 years) and \$10 million in Legacy Gifts. Please contact Jeff Kramer, Executive Director, at 214-361-6606, ext. 212.

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

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Rabbi David M. Glickman
Rabbi Adam J. Raskin
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Cantor Itzhak Zhrebker

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